

[“Dick” Eaton]

[??] Pioneers Dup “Dick” Eaton [??]

During the wild and wooly days of [?] Rivera, the cowboys from various ranches would come to town and [??], drink and gamble. They would generally find someone to [?] too.

It so happened there was a [?] camp across the [?] river and the cook [at?] the camp [???] he called a youngster named Dick Eaton and told him to [?] over to [??] and get them for him.

[?] was only 10 years old and loved to wear the old hats that belonged to some of the cowboys, and one of the boys had given one of his old hats to him,—several sizes to large for Dick, but he was proud of it even if he did have to tie it on. And [?] it was his only hat.

Dick tied his hat on, got on his horse, [?] the river and rode in to [?] Rivera for the groceries. Just as he was getting off his horse, eight or ten cowboys came out of the saloon and [?] him came over and asked him where he was from. He told them [?] county in Texas [?] they [?] that there wasn't [?] a county, and almost made him believe he wasn't in [?] Rivera.

Then one of them remarked about his good looking hat, and asked to see it, as he took it off and handed it to the cowboy. After looking at it for some time the cowboy threw it in the air and shot a hole thro'ugh it, another fellow spoke up and said he only hit it once, so again and again it was thro'wn in the air and shot thro'ugh. Poor Dick was almost in tears when one of the fellows said “[??] that the best hat you had?” and Dick answered “It's the only one I have”. They took him in one of the stores and bought him the best hat they could find. C18-N. Mex.